

Assistance Commission, he assisted Congress in establishing the Help America Vote Act of 2002. Dr. Soaries has worked tirelessly to pave the way for the next generation of civic leaders through his numerous community initiatives to free individuals from the burden of debt by launching the dfree Financial Freedom Movement and currently serves as an independent director at three companies: Independence Realty Trust, Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, and Ocwen Financial Corporation.

I applaud Dr. Soaries for his outstanding accomplishments and commitment to creating opportunities for economic empowerment in our state. On behalf of the state of New Jersey, I would like to formally congratulate Reverend Dr. DeForest B. Soaries on his retirement and wish him the very best as he embarks on his next chapter of life.

CELEBRATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICA LODGE NO. 77

**HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN**

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 23, 2021*

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the work of the America Lodge No. 77 on its centennial celebration.

The America Lodge No. 77 was founded 100 years ago and continues to exercise its work ascribed to the Great Sovereign Lodge of Free and Accepted Freemasons of Puerto Rico. On June 19th of 1921, a group of eight distinguished masons celebrated a meeting presided over by the honorable Pedro Del Valle Atilas. In this meeting the new lodge was constituted with the name of Americas.

The Grand Master William E. Lippitt presided over the ceremony when the Great Lodge of Free and Accepted Freemason of Puerto Rico granted the Founding Charter to the America Lodge. With this the number 77 was assigned to the America Lodge and the new Officialdom was installed.

It is motive of pride for the America Lodge No. 77, the fact that their members are not limited to their masonic activities for the benefit of their lodge only. A great number of them have rendered valuable services to humanity like educational conferences about the Masonic history and providing resources to assist the victims of Hurricane Maria. Additionally, members of the Lodge have held positions of importance in different industries throughout the history of the Lodge having a great impact in their communities.

I'm honored to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the America Lodge No. 77, recognizing the uninterrupted work that their members continue to perform.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE RICHARD ALBERT ST. JOHN

**HON. NORMA J. TORRES**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 23, 2021*

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent from

Pomona, the Honorable Richard Albert St. John. It is with more than a heavy heart that I share that Richard Albert St. John passed away on November 4, 2021.

From the young age of 16, Richard served his country first with the merchant marines on the Great Lakes steamers. One year later, Richard enlisted into the Army where he served as a marine engine mechanic. After leaving the Army and working in a car factory, Richard re-enlisted and served in the Korean War. He was seriously wounded during the war, and was awarded the Purple Heart.

After being discharged as a Sergeant First Class, Richard relocated to Los Angeles in 1953 and entered public service with the Sheriffs Department and then as an investigator with the District Attorney's office. He attended law school at night at Pacific Coast University while working in law enforcement during the day. Upon passing the bar, he worked as the Assistant County Counsel for Butte County. He later returned to Los Angeles where he met Judith Wallingford and married her in 1970.

Richard's experience and success as a trial lawyer led him to be recruited to the District Attorney's office. From 1975 to 1998, Richard served as a Juvenile Court Referee and then as a Superior Court Judge on the Santa Barbara County Superior Court.

In retirement, Richard dedicated his time to his art, family, and traveling with his beloved wife. Richard was a dedicated husband, loyal friend, and selfless public servant. He will be fondly remembered by his loved ones, friends, colleagues, and community.

Today, Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Honorable Richard Albert St. John on the House floor to the State of California. May he rest in peace.

158TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 23, 2021*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, in recognition of the 158th anniversary of President Lincoln's famous Civil War speech in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. I believe it is appropriate that we take the time to remember these meaningful words.

GETTYSBURG ADDRESS

PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN—NOVEMBER 19, 1863

"Fourscore and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, on this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. Now we are engaged in a great civil war, testing whether that nation, or any nation so conceived, and so dedicated, can long endure. We are met on a great battlefield of that war. We have come to dedicate a portion of that field, as a final resting place for those who here gave their lives, that that nation might live. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should do this. But, in a larger sense, we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate—we cannot hallow—this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it far above our poor power to add or detract. The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It

is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they here gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

IN HONOR OF HEALTHCARE WORKERS

**HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, November 23, 2021*

Mr. ADERHOLT. Madam Speaker, I would like to offer my sincere gratitude and admiration for the healthcare workers in Alabama's 4th Congressional District, Northern Alabama, and our entire state: We have all heard stories about individuals in the healthcare field who have gone beyond the call of duty during the Coronavirus pandemic. From all across my district, and throughout our state, constituents have nominated some amazing medical workers, and it is my privilege to honor 63 of these individuals today.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen heroic work done to fight the virus on the front lines. Doctors, nurses, first responders, and everyone who has worked tirelessly in the medical field during this past year deserve all the thanks we can give them. They have kept us safe and healthy in a time when we needed it most.

Over the past two years I have visited hospitals, talked with those on the front lines of the fight, and visited vaccine clinics throughout my district. I have been overwhelmed by the outstanding work being done each and every day. It has been a constant battle for these healthcare heroes, but they have risen to the task every step of the way. I have no doubt in my mind that these amazing men and women have made a big difference in Alabama's bout with COVID-19.

It is for those reasons, and so many more, that I want to honor the healthcare heroes of Northern Alabama. They deserve nothing less. Thanks to the submissions from my constituents in Alabama's 4th Congressional District, I include in the RECORD the names of 63 healthcare heroes. When history looks upon this trying time in our country, they will find the names of the men and women of Alabama who courageously took on the fight to keep the rest of us safe.

With my utmost gratitude, may the legacy of these 63 healthcare heroes live on well into the future.

From Jasper, Alabama: April Burton Reed, Ty Blackwell, and Dr. Ike Baker.

From Athens, Alabama: Patrick Boyett.

From Hackleburg, Alabama: Nataline Pennington.

From Fairview, Alabama: Josh Elliott.

From Vinemont, Alabama: Mary Katherine (Katie) Sutter.

From Brilliant, Alabama: Cynthia Burleson.

From Town Creek, Alabama: Destinee Jones.